

# **EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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### **REMARKS BY**

## **U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA DONATION OF U.S. WHEAT TO SUPPORT BANGLADESH'S SCHOOL FEEDING AND NUTRITION PROGRAM**

**CHITTAGONG PORT  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2012**

Chief Guest Mr. Motahar Hossain, MP, State Minister for Primary and Mass Education;  
Christa Räder, Bangladesh Country Director, World Food Program;  
Mr. Ahmed Hossain Khan, Director-General of Food, Ministry of Food and Disaster  
Management;

Mr. Saiful Haque Chowdhury, Senior Assistant Chief, Economic Relations Division,  
Ministry of Finance.

Wheat ...

Today we speak of wheat ... lots of wheat...10, 440 tons of wheat ... a whole ship full  
of American wheat...

This wheat is a gift ... a gift from the people of America to the children of Bangladesh ...

I am proud as America's ambassador to Bangladesh to make this donation.

But our celebration today is about more than a mountain of donated wheat from America

...

... we celebrate today partnership ... partnership between America and Bangladesh to  
nurture the children of Bangladesh, partnership to nurture the development of Bangladeshi  
children both physically and mentally, partnership to build the nation's citizens of tomorrow.

This wheat supports the Government of Bangladesh's large-scale school feeding and  
nutrition program for the nation's poorest and most vulnerable children.

Bangladesh well understands that hungry children cannot learn;

Bangladesh well understands that hungry children will not stay in school;

Bangladesh well understands that education is the key to building the Golden  
Bangladesh, the Middle-Income Bangladesh, Asia's next Tiger, the Royal Bengal Tiger.

Today, we ... Bangladesh, America and our wonderful partner the World Food Program  
... celebrate more than the arrival of hundreds and thousands of bags of donated wheat from

America ... our joy today is knowing that this wheat will soon be used to create nutrition bars that will be distributed to poor school children throughout the nation.

With this nutritious food helping to build their bodies, these children are more likely to remain in school, these children are better able to study, to learn, to develop the skills and understandings needed to ensure an ever brighter future for this nation.

This shipment of wheat today is only the latest installment of a long-time commitment by America to help Bangladesh feed its most vulnerable children.

Having a farm background myself, I am pleased that the United States Department of Agriculture through the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program continues to make this wheat available to Bangladesh.

America's support for Bangladesh's school feeding program complements our partnership with the government of Bangladesh to build greater food security through President Obama's signature Feed the Future Initiative.

In partnership with Bangladesh, the Feed the Future program is playing an important role in helping Bangladesh increase agricultural production, in helping Bangladeshis improve their livelihoods and ability to procure food, in helping Bangladeshi mothers prepare more nutritious and diverse food for their children.

America's partnerships with Bangladesh ... the USDA McGovern-Dole school feeding program, President Obama's Feed the Future Initiative, and our many other partnership programs that foster better governance, improve basic health, promote economic growth, advance adaptation to the impact of global climate change, and enhance the nation's security ... all seek to promote a Bangladesh that is peaceful, secure, prosperous, healthy and democratic. I believe such a Bangladesh is in the interests of the people of America, of South Asia and, most especially, of Bangladesh itself.

I am indeed pleased and proud to be here today to acknowledge the arrival of this donated wheat, which will contribute importantly to the government's efforts to improve the health of poor and vulnerable children and to keep them in school.

Today, we ... Bangladesh, America and the World Food Program ... are taking a big step forward in realizing our shared vision of the Golden Bangladesh.

It is indeed a great day for Bangladesh and a great day for America.

Thank you.

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